

## CLAIMS

- 1 1. A method for pre-selecting disks coupled to a storage system, the method comprising  
2 the steps of:  
3 obtaining a set of system characteristics;  
4 obtaining a plurality of disk characteristics;  
5 comparing the system characteristics with the disk characteristics;  
6 selecting disks whose disk characteristics match the system characteristics.
- 1 2. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of displaying the selected disks to a  
2 user.
- 1 3. The method of Claim 1 wherein the system characteristics comprise characteristics of a  
2 volume of the storage system.
- 1 4. The method of Claim 3 wherein the step of obtaining system characteristics further  
2 comprises the steps of:  
3 retrieving the volume characteristics from a volume table, the volume table cre-  
4 ated and maintained by a file system layer of an operating system executing on the stor-  
5 age system.
- 1 5. The method of Claim 1 wherein the system characteristics are obtained from a registry  
2 of the storage system.

1 6. The method of Claim 5 wherein the registry further comprises:

2 an application program interface, the application program interface permitting pro-  
3 grams to interface with the registry.

1 7. The method of Claim 1 wherein the pre-selection occurs when a menu is displayed to  
2 a user.

1 8. A graphical user interface (GUI) for managing a file server, the GUI comprising:  
2 a disk selector menu for identifying disks that may serve as candidates for a set of opera-  
3 tions, the set of operations including addition of disks to a volume and creation of a vol-  
4 ume, the disk selector menu only displaying disks which are valid for the operation.

1 9. The graphical user interface of Claim 8 wherein the disk selector menu is a component  
2 of a web page and displayed in a web browser.

1 10. The graphical user interface of Claim 8 wherein the disk selector menu only displays  
2 disks which are valid for a specific volume of the network storage.

1 11. A computer-readable medium operating on a storage system, the computer-readable  
2 medium including program instructions for performing the steps of:  
3 obtaining system characteristics;  
4 obtaining a plurality of disk characteristics;  
5 comparing the disk characteristics to the system characteristics;  
6 selecting disks whose disk characteristics match the system characteristics; and display-  
7 ing a list of the selected disks that may be added to the disks active in the storage system.

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1 12. The computer-readable medium of Claim 11 wherein the computer-readable medium  
2 is a Java servlet.

1 13. The computer-readable medium of Claim 11 wherein the system characteristics fur-  
2 ther comprise:  
3 a set of volume characteristics.

1 14. The computer-readable medium of Claim 11 further programmed to perform the step  
2 of displaying the selected disks to the user, said list including only selected disks from a  
3 spare pool of disks and no others.

1 15. The computer-readable medium of Claim 11 further programmed to perform the step  
2 of displaying the selected disks to the user in a disk selector menu.

1 16. The computer-readable medium of Claim 11 wherein the disk selector menu is a  
2 component of a web page and displayed in a web browser.

1 17. Electromagnetic signals propagating over a computer network, the electromagnetic  
2 signals carrying information for practicing the method of claim 5.

1 18. A method of pre-selecting disks to be displayed in a menu, the pre-selecting occur-  
2 ring before the menu is displayed, the method comprising the steps of:

3 obtaining a set of system characteristics;

4 obtaining a set of spare disk characteristics;

5 comparing the system characteristics to the spare disk characteristics; and,

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pre-selecting a plurality of spare disks whose characteristics match the system characteristics.

19. A method of pre-selecting disks to be added to a volume of a storage system, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining a set of volume characteristics by calling an application program interface of a registry;

obtaining a set of spare disk characteristics by calling the application program interface of the registry; and

pre-selecting a set of disks based upon the spare disk characteristics matching the set of volume characteristics.